(viii) Provide for state-of-the-art aids to navigation and requisite regulatory framework.

(ix) Encourage ship-building and ship-repair activities to become inter nationally competitive and emerge as a leading ship-building/ship-repair nation by 2025.

(x) Support ship-breaking and ship-recycling activities without compromising on environmental concerns.

(xi) Stimulate private sector investment including foreign direct investment particularly for rendering services of a commercial nature in the Maritime sector, by providing conducive environment.

(xii) Promote shipping-trade interface by evolving code of conduct for supply chain players such as freight forwarders, shipping agents, multimodal transport operators and other intermediaries.

(xiii) Develop human resources in maritime sector and market them in the context of emerging global shortage of qualified personnel in the sector.

(c) The existing policy dispensation already provides for private sector participation including foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Maritime Sector including Ports and Harbours, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport. The Government's endeavour is to provide a facilitative investor friendly environment with transparent procedures and decision making process for encouraging private sector participation in the Maritime Sector. This is on-going process.

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1828. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways in Tamil Nadu where works relating to widening, extension and repair have been undertaken as on date during the last three years; and

(b) the time by which works on the above highways are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (b) Tamil Nadu is served by 24 no. of National Highways namely 4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45C, 45 Extn. 46, 47, 47B, 49, 66, 67, 67 Extn., 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 and 220. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works such as widening, extension repair etc., for this purpose are undertaken in phases depending on the condition of the National Highways, traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Such works have been carried out in all the above mentioned National Highways in the last three years. During the last three years, 205 works costing Rs. 316.47 crore have been sanctioned for development and funds to the extent of Rs. 125.89 crore have been allotted for repair and maintenance.

Inclusion of Chhattisgarh in Golden Quadrilateral Project

†1829. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the decision taken by Government, no region of Chhattisgarh has been included in the Golden Quadrilateral National Highways Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government would include Chhattisgarh also in this scheme; and

(c) whether the number of national highways in Chhattisgarh would be increased as a special case due to inclusion of Chhattisgarh in the Golden quadrilateral National Highways Scheme and would be provided with special amounts separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alignment of the Golden Quadrilateral, which envisages four-laning of the existing National Highways connecting Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata-Delhi had been finalized long back and is in advanced stage of construction and, therefore, it will not be feasible to make any changes in its alignment at this stage so as to include Chhattisgarh within its ambit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.